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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BARBADOS SIGNS MOU WITH TOP CIVIL AVIATION BODY

- International civil aviation standards a priority for Barbados

The Hon. Kerrie Symmonds, Minister of Tourism and International Transport, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on behalf of the Government of Barbados in a move to ensure the country's compliance with international civil aviation Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs).

Under the MOU, security assessors from ICAO will conduct an Aviation Security Audit of the Barbados Civil Aviation Department and airport security operations.

During a short ceremony held in Guyana last week on the side-lines of the ICAO 'Meeting to Promote Connectivity for Sustainable Air Transport', Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism and International Transport, Donna Cadogan, presented the signed MOU to Dr. Olumuyiwa Aliu, President of ICAO.

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According to Cadogan, “the MOU signals the commitment of the Government of Barbados to making civil aviation a national priority and improving the state’s level of effective implementation of required ICAO safety standards.”

The ICAO is a UN specialised agency, established by States in 1944 to manage the administration and governance of the Convention on International Civil Aviation. Barbados’ attainment of international standards and required practices would enhance its ability to maximize the economic returns from air transportation. The airport audit of the Grantley Adams International Airport (GAIA) by ICAO is therefore expected foster closer collaboration with the international organization, providing the basis for the development of an action plan to guide local civil aviation authorities. It also provides greater certainty to the continuation of air services and an opportunity for increased inbound tourism on island.

ICAO routinely works with the UN Convention’s 192 Member States and industry groups to reach consensus on international civil aviation SARPs and policies in support of a safe, efficient, secure, economically sustainable and environmentally responsible civil aviation sector. These SARPs and policies are used by ICAO Member States to ensure that their local civil aviation operations and regulations conform to global norms, which in turn permits more than 100,000 daily flights in aviation’s global network to operate safely and reliably in every region of the world.

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About Barbados

The island of Barbados offers the most authentic Caribbean experience with its exceptionally rich culture and history rooted in remarkable landscapes. Rated as one of the world's sexiest beaches in 2008 by Concierge.com; Barbados' Crane Beach in St. Philip stands as a premier destination for travellers. Barbados is also the first Zagat-rated Caribbean island and is known as the culinary capital of the Caribbean. Barbados has hosted several world class events including: The annual Barbados Food & Rum Festival; the 2006 PGA World Golf Championships-Barbados World Cup, the ICC Cricket World Cup Finals in 2007, the Sentebale Charity Polo match with Prince Harry of Wales in 2010, and the ICC Twenty20 Cricket Finals for 2010, and the Rihanna LOUD concert in 2012. Accommodations range from picturesque plantation houses and villas, to quaint bed and breakfasts and award-winning, five-star resorts. Grantley Adams International Airport offers even more non-stop and direct service from a growing number of U.S. cities, making Barbados the true gateway to the Eastern Caribbean. Barbados was voted eighth in the World by Trip Advisor's "2008 Travelers' Choice Destination Awards" in its Top 100 Destinations category. For more information

on travel to Barbados, visit www.visitbarbados.org, follow on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/VisitBarbados>, via Twitter @Barbados.